

The GCC Prism

This Issue Is Dedicated to the Women of GCC

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 23

Vol. 5, No. 1

Greenfield Community College

Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

May, 1987

FREE

PRISM in Danger: Can YOU Help?

By Dian Kendrick, Editor

Greenfield Community College's student newspaper, the **GCC PRISM**, is in danger of dying, the victim of a lack of support from the administration and not enough student participation.

The newspaper, which began the 1986-1987 school year with a staff of 15 and a number of regular contributors, now has a staff of two — Editor Dian Kendrick (that's me) and Associate Editor Janie Howard (a valiant comrade-in-arms who deserves a medal for her contributions to the issue you hold in your hands).

Janie Bensch, who served the paper until recently as the second Associate Editor, had to leave us in March because of other commitments (she also is eligible for an award for her work this year, as far as I am concerned).

The Truth About Women

Here are a few facts about women taken from **The Women's Atlas of the United States**, compiled by Anne Gibson and Timothy Fast:

- There are 1059 women for every 1000 men in the United States.
- Almost two-thirds of people 15 and older living in poverty are women. Seventy-two percent of people over 65 who are poor are women.
- Fifty percent of women over 65 are widowed.
- About 90% of women retire from their jobs without a pension.
- On average, women who are paid for their work earn only 62 cents for each dollar earned by men.
- One percent of the women who earn doctoral degrees get their degree in engineering.
- Eleven percent of physicians and 16% of psychiatrists are female.
- About 2% of construction workers are women.
- The percentage of working women who are employed only part-time ranges, state by state, from 23% to 40%.
- Only 15 women have served as senators and only 105 as representatives in the U.S. Congress during the more than 200 years of this country's existence.
- There has never been a woman president or vice-president of the United States.

Janie, Jane and I have been the only staff working on the **PRISM** for the last three issues. While some students and faculty have taken the time and effort to contribute items to the paper, most of the work has had to be done by the three of us. As a result, both the November and December issues were only four pages, and this issue is the only one we have been able to publish this semester.

Ideally, a college newspaper should be a lively, informative journal that accurately covers all segments of the college community and reflects as many viewpoints as possible. It would be nice if the paper could be more than four pages long and if it could come out more than once a semester. It would be fun if a lot of different voices were heard in the paper, with stories and poems and commentaries from students and other college people, and it would enliven the eye if a lot of different photos and graphics from the GCC community could be published in every issue.

It would be a service to the whole college community if the newspaper had a large enough staff to spend time monitoring what's happening with the college's affirmative action plan, and with the college president and deans, with the Student Senate, with the Board of Trustees, and with other people and groups important to our present and future. "Investigative reporting" such as this is not intended to lead to a "hatchet job" on the person or group being reported on,

but rather is intended to fulfill one of the main responsibilities of a free press: acting as the watchdog of the public and the gadfly of the powers that be.

Unfortunately, the **PRISM** cannot do any of these things without support from the administration, the student body, and the rest of the GCC community. It is obviously vital that the paper have an adequately-sized staff of strongly interested students. But it is at least as important that the college newspaper have continuing, bedrock support from the college president, the deans, the division chairs, the faculty, and other college employees who usually can be counted on to remain at this two-year institution longer than most students.

There are a number of students here who are would-be writers, editors, photographers, layout artists, or ad salespeople and they would all benefit immensely from what they could learn on a college newspaper, as many can testify who have worked for the **GCC** paper in the past and have since used their student experience to get satisfying jobs. **BUT** those students who find the idea of working on a college newspaper exciting, and think that such work would be one of the most useful of extra-curricular activities, must have the backing of the administration, to avoid "reinventing the wheel" (learning everything they need to know and devising journalistic and newspaper production strategies from scratch, instead of being able to use

the previous experience of others) and "burning out" before the end of the year.

The college president did not seem open to requests from the newspaper staff and the paper's Advisory Board earlier this school year that the college support the paper by paying at least the editor-in-chief and perhaps some other key staffers, giving college credit to staffers, providing compensation for one journalistically-oriented advisor who would then be able to devote more time to the paper than any of the current Advisory Board members can, and giving the paper an office of reasonable size in some highly visible part of the building. It was mainly due to the poor conditions for newspaper staffers that the **PRISM** lost most of its workers this year.

(Janie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked to put out the first two issues of the **PRISM** last fall, most especially Marianne Sundell, who was editor-in-chief for those issues and who gave the newspaper and the college service above and beyond the call of duty.)

Fortunately, the administration is now reconsidering the newspaper's situation. At the urging of Dean of Academic Affairs Bryan Blanchard, the division chairs have discussed the plight of the paper and have expressed a willingness to help. A survey of 15 other community college newspapers in Massachusetts and Connecticut has

(Continued on Page 5)

Survey Says GCC Should Offer More to Women

Preliminary results of a faculty survey recently conducted by the Greenfield Community College women's studies committee suggest that GCC should offer more women's studies courses and more services to women students, including an on-campus childcare center and a more comprehensive program for the college's Women's Resource Center, according to committee chair Anne Wiley, who teaches psychology here.

Wiley said that the survey's preliminary results also indicate that some curricular change has occurred in introductory course offerings as a result of special "professional development" workshops held for GCC teachers during the past two years.

Wiley's committee is currently compiling the results of the faculty survey and reviewing a draft of a preliminary student survey which will be distributed in May. The committee will give a full report of its findings to date to Bryan Blanchard, Dean of Academic Affairs, in June.

Established by Blanchard in fall of 1986, the committee has also gathered information about women's studies at the other 14 community colleges in Massachusetts. Almost all of the other community colleges in the state have women's studies courses, and some have more than the three currently offered here, Wiley said. GCC's three women's studies offerings are Psychology of Women, taught by Ellie Goodman; Women and Literature I (the nineteenth century), taught by Phyllis Nahman; and Women and Literature II (the twentieth century), taught by Mary Ellen Kelly.

Women's Degree Program

The committee was originally established to examine the potential for an associate degree in women's studies at GCC; members of the committee at that time were Wiley, Goodman, Nahman, Lynn Benander, Helen Ellis, Garrett McAuliffe, and Toby Sutton.

The committee gave Blanchard an interim report in December which suggested that, based on the research done

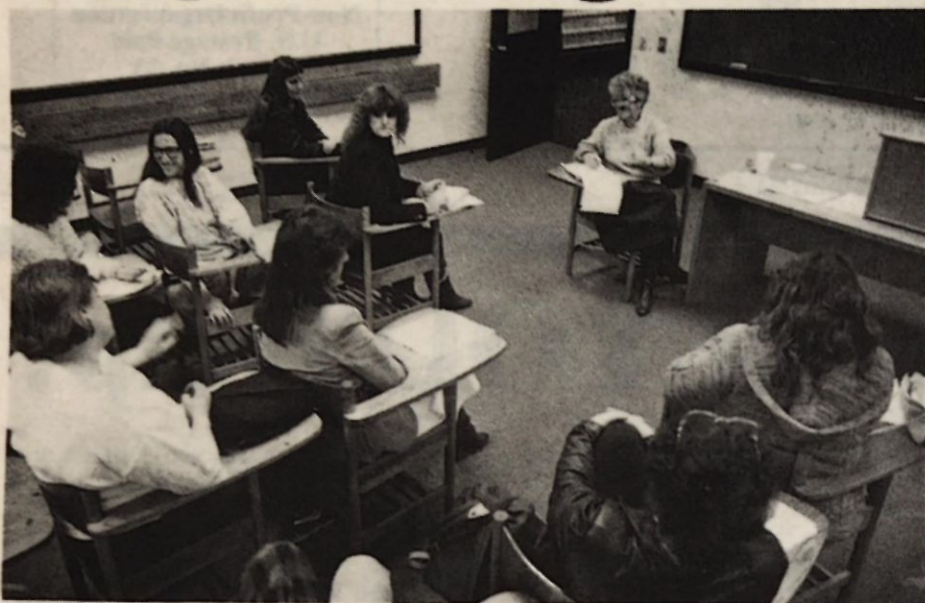
by the committee up to that point, a full-fledged associate degree program should not be offered at this time, but that the committee should continue its research into what women's studies material is currently offered at the college and into what faculty and students at GCC feel would be appropriate here. The interim report also recommended that, with the increase of minority and foreign students at the college, Blanchard examine "institutional climate issues and curriculum concerning multi-cultural perspectives," according to Wiley.

In January of this year, students William LePire and Mary Mello joined the committee.

In March, Wiley presented a paper entitled "Women Leaders: Conversing College Administrators" at the New England Women's Studies Association Conference in Hartford, CT.; the paper was based on her doctoral research at the University of Massachusetts. Also partic-

(Continued on Page 5)

Computer Program Gives Women Bright Future



BETSY AVERILL (seated in front of class) is the coordinator for GCC's new business microcomputer applications program. — Photo by GCC Media Center

By Janie Howard

Nineteen welfare clients, most of them women, are looking forward to a bright future, thanks to a new computer program at Greenfield Community College.

Coordinated by Betsy Averill, the program will award certificates in business microcomputer applications to its graduates after they complete the course on May 22. The computer program, which began in January, is funded by a \$27,160 state grant and a grant of \$38,000 from GCC, according to Robert Schilling, chair of GCC's Business Division.

The program provides training in word processing, data base management, and electronic spreadsheets. Program participants attend five classes and one laboratory each week, receiving a total of 105 hours of hands-on experience with computers. When classes end, the students will work with Averill on writing resumes and searching for work.

Program participants Mary Desautels, Beth Leasure, Shawn McLellan and Brenda Zavattero took time out from their busy schedule to talk about the new program and how it has affected their lives.

"I think it is hard for anyone who's been out of school to return, because of all the red tape that's involved, and trying to decide which courses to take," said Leasure, who is a single mother of twin 10-year-old girls. "With this program there's no worry about what classes would be best for you, because everything is all set up, and when you finish the program you can go in any direction."

Desautels, the single mother of a 15-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl, plans on going into the computer field.

"I really enjoy being here at GCC," she said. "I'm not going to school because I'm on welfare, even though we need public assistance to get our education. We're on public assistance by circumstance, but we are in school by choice."

"I think there's a big support group here at GCC," said Zavattero, who plans to become a marketing major in fall. "There's lots of opportunities, and the staff and facilities are excellent."

McLellan, the single mother of a 3-year-old boy, said, "Returning to school gives you a more positive attitude towards yourself. It's helped my son, too — he's in daycare now and he loves it. He's learned how to interact with other kids and he has become more independent."

Leasure said that her children have also become more independent.

"It's better that they learn to rely more on themselves, their own ideas and judgments," she said. "If they can do more now, at a younger age, when they're older they will be better able to make important decisions about their lives."

"I'm showing my daughters that the way to get what you want out of life is by getting a good education," Leasure said. "My being part of this computer program at the college will make an impression on them that they will remember years from now."

Also in the program are Melissa Davison, Diana Ford, Candy Gourlay, Patricia Hanjack, Sharon Keith, Sharon Lenois, Holly Macleay, Margaret Martin, Debra Mumblo, Cathy Peters, Kathy Sheridan and Nanci Waldron. The remaining participants did not want to be listed in the newspaper.

Minority Member

The first member of a minority in the 25-year history of Greenfield Community College was appointed to GCC's Board of Trustees in February.

Michael D. Ford, a black assistant professor at Hampshire College, was appointed by Governor Michael S. Dukakis. Bob Schwartz, the governor's special assistant for education, said, "The absence of minority participation on the board was conspicuous."

In June of 1986 the State Board of Regents ruled that GCC was not adhering to its affirmative action plan after a grievance was filed against the college's administration by 52 faculty members.

According to Schwartz, the governor believed it was important to appoint a "strong minority trustee." Ford has been an educator for 18 years and is committed to affirmative action.

"I accept my blackness as an important part of me, but beyond that, I've been an educator for an awful long time," he said. Ford was formerly Dean of Students at Hampshire College and also taught for five years at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

"I'm impressed with what I've read so far about Greenfield. I've been very impressed with the school's ability to come up with programs that have a real impact on the community. It seems to be an institution with a lot of good, thoughtful people," Ford said.

Studying Math Has Been A Long, Hard Road for Women

By Lynn Benander

It was not so long ago that women were not allowed to study mathematics — even women who were obviously gifted in the field.

In England in the 1800s, Mary Somerville went into a bookstore to buy a book by Euclid, a famous mathematician, and was told women weren't allowed to buy that book. She, of course, found a willing male friend to buy it for her and was able to continue her studies on her own, outside the university. Once married, however, she had to find ways to hide her math work from her husband, who didn't approve. In spite of these odds, Mary Somerville made important contributions to the field of mathematics.

The brief biographies of great female mathematicians which have been handed down through history tell stories of tremendous perseverance, an amazing ability to learn complex mathematics independently, and severe consequences for the women's decision to pursue a discipline closed to their sex.

Over the past 150 years, women have been admitted into universities and given academic positions. At first, however, academic women were strongly criticized for writing about mathematics. In time, they were allowed to translate the work of male mathematicians or to write on mathematics education. Now, women research and write on every topic in the field.

Through the hard work of many men and women, great strides have been made in improving the position of women in mathematics. However, many more years of hard work will be needed before equality will be achieved.

Researchers who are working to explain sex differences in mathematical achievement often ask the following questions:

- Is mathematics seen as a male domain?
- How are females' attitudes toward math affected by their peers, teachers and families?
- Are women less confident of their ability to do mathematics?

Because women were excluded from mathematics for so long, many people today see math as a male domain. As

more and more women enter mathematics, they will influence the character of this discipline and dispell the myth that math is "male." Teaching strategies will be expanded so that more people will be able to succeed in math. Women may discover new fields in which to use the tools of mathematics.

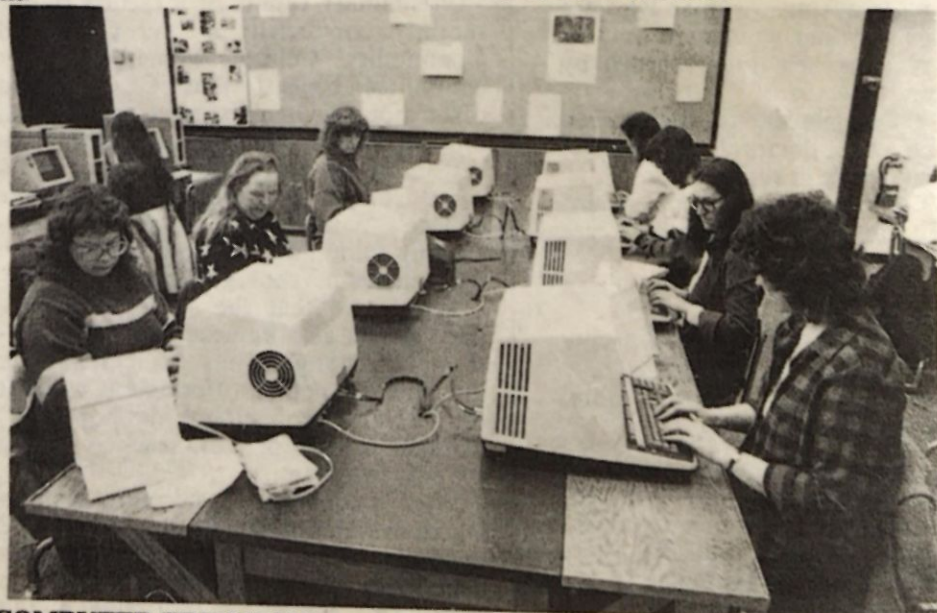
The educational goals of girls are still very different from those of boys. We have not yet shaken our oppressive history.

One study looked at the expectations high school girls had for success in higher mathematics and found that although the girls were as mathematically gifted as their male counterparts, the girls had far lower expectations of success in math. This says that there are young, talented mathematicians who do not go on to study mathematics only because of their gender.

Another study identified a syndrome called "Motive to Avoid Success." The women who suffered from this syndrome were gifted mathematicians, but chose not to pursue a career in mathematics because success in this field would make it harder for them to live in their culture. Some reported that they thought it would be harder to find a husband if they studied upper level mathematics, because men might be intimidated by the women's mathematical competence.

Math anxiety is yet another aspect of the problem. People who develop a poor self-image in mathematics as children often have to work through many negative and fearful feelings before they can go on to learn new mathematical ideas. Because of women's difficult history in mathematics, because of the centuries of discrimination against women in this field, math anxiety is far more prevalent among women than among men.

We're not there yet, but we're surely on the right road. In the miles ahead, we need to find ways to encourage women to pursue education and careers in mathematics and not to phase themselves out because of societal pressures and a lack of self confidence. As these female pioneers enter mathematics, they will make the whole field more inclusive of women's ideas and strategies and they will change society's expectations about the interests and careers of women.



"COMPUTER FRIENDLY": Students in the microcomputer program become familiar with their machines. — Photo by GCC Media Center

Women's Center: Hidden Away

By Dian Kendrick

The Greenfield Community College Women's Resource Center, which began as a suggestion made in 1984 by a group of women faculty at the college and which is located on the second floor North, has not made much of a splash in its brief history at the college. Despite good intentions and the hard work of a few, the center is ignored by most of the college's administration and is unknown to most of the students.

The need for a space to house materials related to women's studies, to display such materials, and to be the site of women-oriented meetings was identified in a survey conducted during the 1983-1984 school year to determine to what degree courses at GCC were "gender balanced" and to assess the interest of the faculty in achieving "balance" in the treatment of female and male students at the college. The group which began this gender balance project consisted of Helen Ellis, Kate Finnegan, Ginny Low, Phyllis Nahman, and Anne Wiley, who at the time of the survey redesigned several of their own courses at the college to include more works by and issues related to women.

At the request of the gender balance group, GCC President Theodore Provo approved the conversion of an upper FSM (Faculty/Student Module) area in the building's north wing into an enclosed space to be designated "The Women's Resource Center" and the work was done in 1984. With money from each of the college's divisions, the resource center compiled a small library on women's issues and made it available for loan to members of the GCC community; some material from faculty and staff was "permanently loaned" to the center.

The space was first "enclosed" with half walls, then further enclosed with full walls and a door in 1985. The college does not staff the resource center, however, meaning that checking out a book from the women's collection was difficult. Most of the center's books have been moved to the college library, which is more accessible and secure.

Although it is enclosed, the Women's Resource Center is not a private place for meetings, since the current ventilation scheme of the building requires that one wall of the room be open grating. Also, the center is difficult to find and there are no signs to direct interested people to the room. The only sign is a hand-lettered one put up right next to the center by some of the GCC women who have struggled to establish and maintain the room.

According to Ed Kelly, supervisor of building and grounds at GCC, renovating the room to make it more private will have to wait until funds are made available by the state and extra construction workers hired. Kelly says the renovations may not be completed until after the fall, 1987, semester, at which time appropriate signs showing the way to the center can be provided by the college.

The resource center is currently staffed for a number of hours during the school week by the Women's Center of Franklin County. This group, which is composed of women from the community as well as women from GCC, was established last May and uses the GCC Women's Resource Center for some of its functions. The Franklin County group is hoping to

establish its own headquarters soon, however, probably in downtown Greenfield.

"People who come to our functions in the Women's Resource Center here at GCC often complain that they have all sorts of trouble finding the room," said a GCC student who is also a member of the Franklin County Women's Center. "Even GCC students have trouble finding it, if they even know it exists. Also, it isn't private here; people outside can hear what's going on inside, which means you can't talk about intimate issues in the room."

"Because the college administration hasn't promoted the room and hasn't yet renovated it so it could accommodate confidential meetings and talks, almost no one drops by while we're staffing it," she said. "It could be a great place for women, but it isn't being used very much at all as a resource center."

"It really is a shame, because a lot of the women at GCC have special needs that could be met by a good women's resource center. Since most of the students at the college are women, I don't understand why the administration doesn't do more for us."

The Women's Center of Franklin County will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 7-9 pm, in the GCC Women's Resource Center, second floor North. For more information about the Franklin County group, call Doris Riley at 772-6150 or Lynn Scott at 659-3156.

For more information about the college's Women's Resource Center, contact Anne Wiley, Room N221.

Lively Elected Alumni Trustee

Cynthia Lively of Greenfield, who graduated from Greenfield Community College in 1965, was elected alumni trustee on the GCC Board of Trustees in March. Elected to a five-year term by the GCC Alumni Association, Lively succeeds outgoing alumni trustee Brian McKenna. A maximum of 10 years may be served in this position.

Also elected at the alumni's annual meeting were officers and four members-at-large for the Alumni Association. Elected, all to terms of two years, were:

President: Richard Knowlton of Colrain, class of 1964; vice-president: Doris Varcoe, Bernardston, 1965; secretary: Cynthia Lively; treasurer: David Ciszewski, Greenfield, 1970.

Members-at-large: Jane Bensch, Greenfield, 1984; Melvin Columbia, Turners Falls, 1986; Kathy Foote, Greenfield, 1969; Carolyn Nims, Greenfield, 1966.

The association also approved a new Alumni Constitution, which opens full membership in the group to anyone having a GCC diploma or certificate or having over 30 credit hours at the college; this change was made because many GCC students do not graduate from GCC before transferring to other colleges.

The Alumni Association says its biggest job during 1987-1988 will be to participate as a group in GCC's 25th anniversary celebration.

GCC to Celebrate 25th Anniversary

With summer not yet here, the next academic year probably seems a long time away to most people. Not so for all those who are working on the 1987-1988 year-long celebration of Greenfield Community College's 25th Anniversary.

Two committees have been planning and organizing special anniversary events for more than a year. The 25th Anniversary Committee, headed by Jean Cummings, a long-time member of the GCC Foundation, is planning a variety of events for the kick-off celebration weekend, September 25-27. The Events Committee, chaired by Dr. Helen Ellis of the English faculty, is coordinating all anniversary events for the remainder of the '87-'88 academic year.

Because the college's birthday coincides with the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, programs will celebrate both events.

Although some special events may occur before the kick-off weekend, the three days at the end of September are the major celebration of the year. Planned are a student dance on Friday night, September 25; a road race, a soccer game, and a Pops Concert on Saturday, September 26; and a brunch and a convocation with an academic procession

and a nationally-known speaker on Sunday, September 27. There will also be an alumni homecoming that weekend.

The concert on September 26 will feature the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, the GCC music faculty and the student chorus. The speaker on September 27 will be Dr. Richard Berendzen, president of the American University.

Many campus activities regularly held during the year will have a special anniversary twist. For example, the first of the year's art shows will be an alumni art exhibit. Works by alumni of the college's art and graphic design programs will be shown in two off-campus locations as well as in the campus art gallery during September.

A four-part lecture series, sponsored by the GCC Foundation, will feature GCC faculty and professional staff. Other special programs will include workshops for parents and performances for children.

A calendar featuring photographs from college archives will list all major events planned for the year, and is expected to be available by early summer in the college bookstore. The calendar is a project of the Events Committee.

Presidential Search To Begin in May

By Dian Kendrick

Charles Ramon has been appointed by the Greenfield Community College Board of Trustees as chair of a search committee to find a new president for the college to replace Dr. Theodore L. Provo, whose contract expires next year and who is not seeking reappointment.

Ramon, who has been a GCC trustee for about a year, will appoint 12 others from the college and community to serve on the search committee. His choices must be approved by the Board of Trustees, according to Morton Slavin, chair of the board.

The trustees hope that the committee will be in place by May 6 and that a new president will have been chosen by November, Slavin says.

The Board of Trustees has agreed that the search committee will be composed of one member of the community at large and 12 representatives from GCC: one dean, one administrator, four faculty members, four trustees, one student (not the student trustee), and one classified employee (someone on the GCC payroll with a non-faculty, non-administrative job, such as a secretary or maintenance worker). One member of the Massachusetts Board of Regents will also serve on the committee, in a non-voting capacity.

The committee will be in charge of the entire process of finding a new president: communicating with candidates, arranging interviews, recommending to the trustees at least five qualified candidates, and making sure the search is in accordance with the college's affirmative action program.

At the moment, there are no women deans at GCC and only one woman division director: Margaret Craig, director of the Division of Nursing. More than 60 percent of the school's student body is

female. The number of minority employees at the college has also declined, although the number of minority students has increased, according to a statement made recently by Robert Merriam, the school's Affirmative Action Officer and President Provo's assistant.

Merriam was quoted in the *Greenfield Recorder* in March as feeling that one of GCC's main employment problems is attracting qualified applicants who also meet affirmative action goals. GCC has difficulty recruiting minority employees in Franklin County because the county is more than 98 percent white. GCC advertises nationally for applicants whenever a position opens at the college, according to Merriam.

Some faculty members and students at GCC have blamed President Provo for the college's poor affirmative action record, saying that he has failed to emphasize GCC's stated goals for women and minorities. However, the college's Board of Trustees also plays a role, since the board must approve those who are appointed to staff positions.

Provo, who has been suffering from a back ailment which required physical therapy and then a brief hospital stay, has not been in his office for some weeks. He is expected to return to work when his health permits, according to his staff.



Ain't I A Woman? : Truth and the ERA

Born into slavery in New York State and the mother of 13 children whom she bore and loved only to see them sold away from her to white masters, Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) worked to end slavery nationwide and to win equal rights for women after New York freed its slaves in 1827.

Truth, who had become a revivalist minister, stopped the show at the 1851 Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio, when she made her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech in spontaneous response to those at the convention who opposed women's rights, including the white minister who had preceded her on the podium.

"The man over there says women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere," she said. "Nobody ever helps me into carriages or over puddles, or gives me the best place ... and ain't I a woman?"

The six-foot-tall Truth bared her muscular arm and thrust it high into the air. "I could work as much and eat as much as a man — when I could get it — and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman?" she cried.

She spoke of seeing her children sold into slavery, and told her audience, "When I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me. And ain't I a woman?"

Those at the convention who when they spoke of women spoke of them only as privileged, frail "ladies" who needed male protection and who did **not** need equal rights, saw women in a different light after Truth's speech. The chairwoman of the convention, Frances Gage, later wrote:

"She had taken us up in her strong arms, and carried us safely over the slough of difficulty, turning the whole tide in our favor."

Unfortunately, although slavery was abolished in this country in 1865 and women finally won the right to vote in 1920, we still do not have an Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. The ERA, which was defeated in 1982, reads:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

This seems a simple proposition: the federal and state governments would be forbidden to discriminate on the basis of gender. However, even in an age that considers itself enlightened and in a country which prides itself on its just treatment of all citizens, this proposition is met with the response from some quarters that women have all the rights they "need" and that, even if some inequities exist, the "ladies" will be taken care of by the "gentlemen." This is absurd on the face of it: we all know of "gentlemen" who beat their wives, abuse and abandon their children, refuse to pay child support, refuse to hire women for certain jobs or to pay them what they're worth — the list could go on and on. Not all inequities would be remedied by passage of the ERA, but some would, and including the ERA in our Constitution would at least give formal recognition to the idea of women's equality in the basic governing document of our country.

Sojourner Truth told her opponents at the 1851 Women's Convention that not all women are "ladies" who are automatically given the best place by "gentlemen" who always have women's best interests at heart. Some of us need the protection of the law of the land — indeed, **all** of us do.

It would seem we will once again need the power of Truth when the ERA is next presented for our consideration. Sojourner may be gone, but the truth will never die — and neither will the need for impassioned, fair-minded women and men to support the rights of **all** of us in a world where inequity and injustice seem more "natural" than equality and "justice for all."

— Dian Kendrick

Workshops For Women

The New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT) is sponsoring a series of workshops in May which will address issues facing women in Franklin County. The workshops, which are open to the community with donations accepted, will all be held in the NELCWIT office at 219 Silver Street, Greenfield.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

"Legal Steps to Stop Domestic Violence: Does Someone You Know Need Help?" on Thursday, May 7, 6-8 pm; presenters, Lisa Turner and Sue Wickline.



GCC Prism

EditorDian Kendrick

Associate

EditorJanie Howard

Typesetting: Karen Mills

Layout: H-Copy

ADVISORY BOARD

Saul Greenblatt, Chair

John Bross

Robert Merriam

Helen Ellis

Hartley Pfeil

Merryl Sackin

"Loving Ourselves: A Workshop on Self Esteem," Tuesday, May 12, 7-9 pm; presenter, Andrea Ianelli.

"Perceptions of Self," Wednesday, May 13, 6-9 pm; presenters, Peg Lazar-chick and Marcia Malamut.

"Making It on Your Own: A Single Working Mother's Experience," Thursday, May 21, 7-9:30 pm; presenter, Joyce Yaeger.

"Building Your Child's Self Esteem," Wednesday, May 27, 6-8 pm; presenter, Michelle Critelli.

Freud vs. Women

"Freud was a great enemy of women. All that nonsense about suffering from penis envy, which presupposes that the unconscious does not tell little girls that they have perfectly good sex organs within themselves, but apparently gives them full information about the male sex organs, although the little girls may never have seen or heard of them. If you could believe that, you could believe anything ..."

"Thanks to Freud, the whole of the United States is covered with millions and millions of grown men grizzling about the way they were treated by their mothers, who are usually dead."

— Rebecca West, *British writer, 1892-1983*

Letters to the Editor

Library Noise

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter hoping it will resolve a constant problem in the college library.

The back offices in the library are not soundproof — there is only a partial wall, which makes it impossible to concentrate at times when the librarians are engaged in personal chatter.

I feel, as I'm sure others do, that the library is meant to be a quiet place to study and that we shouldn't be asked to listen to the personal conversations of others echoing in this part of the library, or any part.

A Serious Student
Who Wants a Quiet Library

Inside Job

To the Editor:

A growing problem in this county and state is the theft of personal belongings from inside a person's car. You wouldn't believe how easy it is for someone to get into a car if they see a nice stereo or whatever else looks valuable. Even if you have one of these "high-tech" alarm systems that cost a lot but just make a lot of noise, a person will find a way to get in.

My jeep was broken into on the campus parking lot and I lost a stereo and about \$500 worth of tapes. I was lucky to have insurance to cover it, but I don't think too many of the students could afford to run out and buy another stereo set without the help of good ol' mom and dad.

The best thing to do, I guess, is to take all the books you will need with you and leave the others home and throw something over your valuables if you have to leave them in the car. As for your high-tech hi fi, just lock the doors of the car and hope no one tries to get in. Another good approach is to buy one of those

bumper stickers that say, "You Mess With This Truck and You Gonna Die!"

John Begos

Please Write

Dear Interested Students:

How many of you interested students in your spare time wish to correspond with me for friendship, a gesture of good faith, good pastime? It's no joke, no put on, and I'd like to make new friends through the mail.

Please remember that age, sex and race absolutely make no difference. Friendship counts a lot.

I stand 5'11", weigh 170 to 185 pounds, have brown hair and blue eyes, wear glasses and am the oldest of two sons. I lost my 79-year-old father on May 12, 1979, but I have a cat, a brother, and my mother. I'm a Canadian citizen.

I usually attend Fairview Baptist Church, but at times I attend West Point Grey Baptist Church. I have many interests, mainly music. I like to receive and write letters, talk on the phone, read, take trips, play cassettes, and much more. My birthday is on July 17. I use public transportation all the time to save energy.

I hope to hear from all interested students soon, because I've time to answer all letters. Please write to

David Cohen
35 East 40th Avenue
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada
V5W 1L3



"The talk of sheltering woman from the fierce storms of life is the sheerest mockery, for they beat on her from every point of the compass, just as they do on man, and with more fatal results, for he has been trained to protect himself, to resist, and she has not."

— Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 1815-1902

College Newspapers: Censored?

It's sad but true that most people do not concern themselves with an issue unless it directly affects them. This gives those in power the ability to take things into their own hands and manage them in whatever manner they see fit.

Freedom of the press is a prime example of such a situation. The media, those directly involved with the First Amendment rights of free speech on a day-to-day basis, have for years fought a continuing battle with public officials over what information the public should be exposed to. The media wants to tell all — the good and the bad. The public officials want only good things told to the public. The public seldom gets involved in the battle.

College newspapers are no exception to the rule. A recent study of 17 college newspapers in the country revealed that each paper has recently undergone censorship problems, whether it be at the hands of the administration, the student government, governing boards, or individual faculty members.

It is pathetic that 16 out of the 17 newspapers with censorship problems did not publicize their situations — most likely because they were being closely watched by those who were censoring them in the first place.

The one newspaper that did bring the issue to the public was the **Northern Star**, at Northern Illinois University. Soon, the battle between the **Star** and Clyde Wingfield, then president of the university, gained national attention. Newspapers and radio and television stations ran stories about Wingfield's alleged attempt to control the editorial content of the **Star** by ridding the paper of its advisor of 16 years, Jerry Thompson.

And the battle is not over. Although the messy situation contributed to Wingfield's resignation, the long-term effects of the former president's attacks on the **Star** will linger forever. All reporters aware of the ordeal will keep the situation tucked away in the backs of their minds, and will think twice about writing a story that might not agree with the big shots at NIU.

Censorship is a problem that affects many college newspapers in the country — including, quite possibly, your own. The public needs to keep its eyes and ears open to a problem that persists.

— Deborah Fleischman
Editor, **Northern Star**

(Note: This commentary is reprinted from the National Student News Service Student Forum, which is open to all persons wishing to express their opinion on student-related issues. Send submissions to Editorials, National Student News Service, P.O. Box 3161, Boston, MA 02101.)

been conducted by Cam Beavers, GCC's Director of Institutional Research, using questions formulated by Blanchard, Beavers, and Helen Ellis, one of the PRISM's advisors.

Blanchard and the division chairs are currently working on a long-term proposal, based in part on the results of the survey, that Blanchard hopes will guarantee the paper a healthy future. He hopes that the proposal will lead the administration to make some changes in the paper's current situation and to make some of these changes in time for the fall, 1987, semester.

We fervently support Blanchard in his efforts and thank him and others who have helped for their time and concern. We believe a student newspaper is important for many reasons, and that it would be a great shame if this particular student newspaper, the GCC PRISM, were forced to suspend publication.

Of course, the fact remains that — even with a lot more support from the administration — the paper must rely on STUDENTS to work on its staff and to contribute to its pages. If you are a GCC student who plans to be here next year, please consider working with us. If the hoped-for administrative support materializes, the paper will offer many advantages to students who want to get involved — and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are performing a much-needed service for your school.

Declaration of Rights

"We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ... The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having as its direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her."

— From the Declaration adopted by the first Women's Rights Convention in this country, at Seneca Falls, NY, July, 1848

Newspaper Needs Students

By GCC President Theodore Provo

I also would like to lend my voice and hopes that this will not be the last issue of Greenfield Community College's student newspaper, the PRISM, but as the editors have advised, they simply cannot continue without stronger participation by the student body. It has been only by dint of incredible devotion on the part of a very few students that there has been a newspaper. Editor after editor has discovered that due to the time requirements of writing, editing, pasting up and organizing of the newspaper, the classroom work suffers.

A student newspaper can be maintained only when a large number of students are willing to work together and to share their ideas. It cannot exist simply because the student body wishes that it would. It is not a question of money alone, for the Student Senate, the college, and the GCC Foundation have all given funds to help defray and meet the costs that advertising does not cover.

It is important that the student body have a voice: one that can take a position that may be different from the college. It is important that all views on a campus be permitted to interact. That is the stuff of a college and the strength of a nation. Without the free exchange of ideas, society will miss the opportunity to truly be educated.

But, the PRISM cannot continue unless there are those who are willing to work: to write, to edit, to draw, to paste up, and to seek advertising.

I hope there are those within the student body who can and will take the time so that a student newspaper can continue.

If you are interested in working on the PRISM next year in any capacity — editor-in-chief, departmental editor, reporter, photographer, graphic artist, ad salesperson, business-office worker — please contact me: Dian Kendrick, 136 High Street, Greenfield, MA 01301, 413-774-6461. Or you can leave your name, address and phone number in the box outside the newspaper office, Room N336, on the third floor North, near the Mineral Collection.

Remember: a free press needs YOU if it is to survive. Think about it.

Affirmative Action

Greenfield Community College is pledged to eliminate any discrimination at the college against women, minorities, the handicapped, people at least 40 years of age, and others who are part of what is known as "the protected group," and also to support "affirmative action," which requires the college to "make positive efforts to educate, recruit, employ, and promote qualified members of the protected group formerly excluded, even if that exclusion cannot be traced to particular discriminatory actions on the part of the College."

According to GCC's Affirmative Action Plan, which is the same as the plan subscribed to by the other 14 public community colleges in Massachusetts, the premise of the affirmative action concept is "that unless positive action is undertaken to overcome the effects of systemic institutional forms of exclusion and discrimination, a benign neutrality in employment and education practices will tend to perpetuate the status quo ante indefinitely."

Unjustly Jailed Children

Over 3000 abused and neglected children are incarcerated in adult prisons each year in the United States, because proper care cannot be provided for them elsewhere. Another 300,000 juveniles are also held in adult prisons, one out of four of them jailed for offenses that would not be offenses if they were adults: they are runaways, truants and children in need of supervision. Only 10 percent of the children placed in adult jails are charged with serious offenses, and these young offenders would be better served in a setting designed for juveniles.

Our children are our most precious resource, and to allow them to spend their childhood behind bars is unthinkable.

One agency which works to help troubled children is the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The OJJDP provides assistance to states, localities and private non-profit groups in their efforts to improve the juvenile justice system and help prevent delinquency.

Two-thirds of the OJJDP's total appropriation is used to remove children from adult jails and lock-ups, separating children from convicted adults and helping those jailed juveniles who have committed offenses that would not be considered "crimes" if they were adults. Discretionary funds are also available to fund research and demonstration programs which are attempting to develop approaches which would help prevent delinquency and reduce the rate of serious crimes committed by youths.

Tragically, for the sixth straight year, the Reagan administration has targeted the OJJDP for termination. The stated reason for the attempt to terminate the agency is that it has achieved its goals "to the extent practicable." Yet hundreds of thousands of children are still held unjustly in adult jails.

Concerned citizens can help end these children's nightmare of abuse and neglect by urging their senators and representatives in Washington to co-sponsor the Young Americans Act (S476 and HR10003).

This act will place younger Americans on center stage in our nation, states, and communities, providing youth with many of the same guarantees that the Older Americans Act has given our country's elderly.

This act will be a real breakthrough because it will help those children and adolescents who are in the greatest economic and social need. If passed, it will coordinate federal activity with regard to children, youth, and families and will encourage state and area-wide planning aimed at maximizing resources to provide all young people with the best possible physical and mental health; adequate and safe shelter; the highest quality education possible; effective job training and productive employment; a wide range of civic, cultural and recreational activities; and genuine participation in planning and managing their lives.

Write NOW to your U.S. senators and to your representative in Congress. Urge them to support the Young Americans Act. Our children need our help.

— Janie Howard

More for Women?

(Continued from Page 1)

ipating in the conference from GCC were Benander, Kelly, and Nahman.

Women's Studies Efforts

According to Wiley, efforts to "gender balance" the curriculum at GCC have been going on for at least four years.

In June of 1983, five GCC faculty attended a national conference titled "Toward a Balanced Curriculum" at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. Wiley, Nahman, Ellis, Kate Finnegan and Ginny Low participated in the conference through the sponsorship of the GCC Foundation, the GCC President's Office, and the Wheaton College Conference scholarship fund. Wiley said the five-day conference brought the GCC teachers in contact with college faculty and administrators from all over the United States and from various disciplines.

In fall of 1983, the five women, acting as a special committee, began to assess the GCC curriculum and to make changes in their own courses to reflect their concern for gender balance. With additional faculty and staff support, including help from Kelly and Sue McGowan, they prepared a survey of faculty interest in gender balancing the curriculum at GCC. The survey results, collected in spring of 1984, indicated that the faculty in general was interested in learning more about gender balance through professional development in their respective teaching areas and in "classroom climate" issues.

During the 1984-1985 school year, the special committee added as members Kelly, McAuliffe, McGowan and Sutton, who was at that time Dean of Academic Affairs. This group planned faculty development workshops to further the aim of gender balancing the curriculum.

Three faculty workshops were held in spring, 1985. Dr. Peggy McIntosh, director of the Wellesley Research Center for

Women, presented an overview lecture on women's studies; Dr. Kersti Yllo gave a workshop on gender balancing the behavioral sciences; and Dr. Elizabeth Minnich presented a workshop on bringing gender balance to the humanities. Faculty and staff evaluations of these presentations suggested that future workshops include information on classroom climate, teaching process, and affirmative action.

Work Continues

The committee reconvened in fall of 1985 and arranged for a lecture on affirmative action by Massachusetts Board of Regents member Mary Lou Anderson. Working with Blanchard, who was by then Dean of Academic Affairs, the committee planned a professional development day which was held in April, 1986. The day featured Dr. Bernice Sandler from the Project on the Status of Equality in Education, Washington, DC, speaking on "Classroom Climate: A Chilly One for Women?," and also offered a workshop on the teaching process presented by Dr. Libby Klemmer of Mount Wachusett Community College.

In June of 1986, Wiley attended the National Women's Studies Association Conference at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. As part of a panel at the conference, she spoke on integration projects and women's studies courses offered at community colleges.

The work of several years finally led to the establishment of the current GCC women's studies committee last fall. The committee will continue to meet throughout the spring semester; any student or faculty member wanting more information about the committee and its work may contact Anne Wiley, Room N221, or Phyllis Nahman, Learning Center.

Continued Conversation

So I saw you again, sprawled at your table in the restaurant,
And you looked at me strangely, but you said I could sit down.
And I gave you my little present,
The small token of my thoughts of you
Since you've been gone.
And I asked you about yourself and you told me as much as you intended to,
And then I took my turn and told you about myself, as much as I intended to
At the time.
And you lectured me in the same old way, with talk of
Dependency, and fear of intimacy, and projection, and transference —
All mine, of course.
And so we continued a conversation
That began months ago,
Under other circumstances.
And you asked me, there in the restaurant,
Who I thought you were to me — in my thoughts and in my dreams
(Although you don't "do" dreams).
Are you my mother? my daughter? my husband? myself?
Or are you — I thought, but did not say —
Not only an echo, but mainly yourself,
Whoever that may be?
And, by the way,
Who am I to you? Or is such a question not permitted?
And do you not also fear intimacy and dependency?
Do you not also project qualities that are in you
And see them in another?
Do you not sometimes make me something I am not,
And isn't there such a thing as counter-transference —
If we must speak so?
Where are you in all of this, or is everything that has passed between us
A drama of my own making, with you only an unwitting actor
Recruited to play the part of my mother, my daughter, my husband,

myself,
As my needs may dictate?
Sitting with you in the restaurant,
I thought about attachments and intimacy,
And how we yearn for what we fear,
And fear what we yearn for.
I thought about commitments — one person to another —
And I wondered if you are capable of attaching yourself to another,
Trusting another, depending upon another, making a commitment.
I thought about your mother,
And about mine,
And about the betrayal of trust when we were very young,
And about being rejected, abandoned
By the person we had loved the most
And trusted the most — in the beginning,
When there seemed reason to trust.
I thought about meeting you for the first time, months ago,
And feeling your dark power
And — later — your radiance.
I thought about the dark and the bright in you
And how I was pulled to you by some deep, perhaps fatal attraction,
As by a dark angel.
But I do not know how I seemed to you when we met
Or later, and can only guess.
It would seem to me that you were a gift to me
And I to you,
For I believe there is some power that is in us and beyond us
Which has plans of its own.
And does not this power create attachments between people
To suit its own purposes
And further its own ends for us?
And so we are sometimes attracted and become attached
Against our conscious will, fighting against it,
Fearing it, fearing one more betrayal and abandonment
That will repeat the first.

But we did not talk in the restaurant

About cosmic patterns in our lives
And how they pull us to each other.
We talked instead of dependency, and fear of intimacy, and projection, and transference —
All mine, of course.
And when I grabbed your hand and hit your arm
In some reflex action, some only partially hostile attempt
To break through all this and make a real contact,
You laughed and said I was still "abusing" you
As I had always done.
Some patterns persist.
You say you don't like psychobabble
And neither do I.
And I don't like stone walls thrown up
To protect you and keep me out.
I don't like stone walls that limit you and keep you
From growing into that person I know you can be —
Walls meant as armor that become a prison
For the struggling soul.

And, yes, I know about stone walls —
I, who have lived in a fortified castle,
Watching for enemies from behind narrow windows.
And I know about armor —
I, who live with a sword in my hand.
I know, too, about prisons,
The prisons of the body, and the mind,
and the betrayed heart,
Which constrict the soul.
And I know about intimacy, and how we yearn for it,
And betrayal and abandonment, and how we fear it,
So that we live behind our unbreached walls alone,
Dreading that which we long for.
I thought all this, sitting with you in the restaurant
And looking sometimes into your soft blue eyes,
The windows of your soul,
But I did not say it.
Instead, we left and we did not say we would meet again,
There, or anywhere else.
But I think
That this conversation will continue.

— D.P.

Broken

You made some promises to me,
Stated and implied,
And those promises
Were broken.

You had said I didn't know
How to trust
And that I could learn to trust
You, by matching your words
With your actions,
But your words were
A false token.

It wasn't that you left,
as you had to do.
Some patterns are repeated,
And I had known you would leave
From the start.

And perhaps I shouldn't
Have been surprised —
For some patterns are repeated —
When, at the last,
You broke your word
And left me with
A betrayed heart.

— D.P.



In a Dark Wood

Midway in my life, I find myself lost
In a dark wood. I have struggled this far
On a rock-strewn, uphill path that has cost
Me years and tears, trying to sight a star
To guide me. Now I stand here in the dark,
Searching the night sky for a sign,
something
To serve as a beacon for this frail ark
That carries my soul. As I stand, I cling
To the nearest, strongest tree. It will serve
Me as my mast in this storm-torn forest,
On this stormy journey. It will preserve
Me now, in this dark hour — in this, my quest.
My soul cries out, "Light! Light! That I may see.
God, give me courage, strength and love
— for my journey."

— Dian Kendrick



In the Cold Dawn

In the cold dawn, I stood alone
and watched the sunbeams
kiss the waves, while they danced
and walked the shore.

Slowly I felt the warmth of the sun
grow stronger,
grow brighter,
grow longer.

I let peace enter my soul
and the sound of the waves crashing
enter my ears
and the whip of the wind enter my pores.

I lay in the sand
and became one with the Earth.

— Susan Vandermark

To Love

To love is to touch souls
The pleasure of love is to touch bodies
The joy of love is to touch hearts
The fulfillment of love is to touch
minds
The sadness is to lose touch
— Lynne Hoose

What Lies Underneath?

Faces of a handful of people talking.
Their words are strewn about a room
But there seems to be no meaning.

Why the expressions on the faces and
Moving hands to help, when words fall
out
Of mouths and into ears and out again?

Why is this so meaningless for me?
This conversation with invisible beings,
Sounds to hear but do not touch me.

They come across like a shadow
Passing over a rock
And there is no feeling.

— Susan Vandermark

Hey, Little Cherub

Hey, little cherub with eyes so bright,
Where are you going in the early morning
light?

Chubby little legs carry you off down the
lane,
Through the freshly mown grass wet with
rain.

What manner of mischief have you in
mind?
Seeking whatever knowledge you can
find.

The morning sun forms a halo on your
golden curls,
Your blue eyes sparkle as you watch a
morning glory unfurl.

"See!" You shout and your laughter
tinkles out on the morning air,
As you point to a butterfly fluttering
near.

The quick movements of a squirrel catch
your eye,
And you chase after him only to have
him scamper up a tree near by.

You stand in awe as you watch him
ascend,
Only to sit down suddenly as you see his
flight end.

Now intent on a roly poly bug you forget
your fall,
You pick him up and watch intently as he
rolls into a ball.

You frown, and just as quickly smile as
you stuff him in your ear.
When questioned why, you answer
quickly: "Because he had no place to
live, poor dear."
— Darlene B. Clark

How Could This Be?

It's nineteen eighty seven,
How could this be?
A civil rights march
On t.v.
Those feelings of hate
That I'd thought long dead,
Being played out in the streets
Of Forsythe County instead.
The Ku Klux Klan
Is there of course,
Yelling go home nigger,
Go back up North.
With confederate flags
To show their might,
I guess they don't know
We won that fight!
America, whole now,
The land of the free,
Their dreams of apartheid
Never can be.
I watch from New England,
Remembering the fright,
Of white sheets, burning crosses
That lit up the night.
Churches were bombed,
And black kids died,
All over the country,
Decent white people cried.

To think that my race
Could cause such strife,
Trying to keep black folks
From living their life.
Embarrassing moments
The press in a town,
Where years of white hatred
Still can be found.
A sad situation,
Degrading at best,
To know maybe someday
I'll be classed with the rest.
Amazed at the force
Of the police and the guard,
The man posting signs
To keep blacks from his yard,
I turned off the set
To reflect on the way
Things that my mother said
Made sense today.
"When you sleep with the devil,
There's always hell to pay."
— Lynne Hoose



Maintaining the Machine

It seems odd to be
Bouncing about the gym,
And twisting my body
Into unaccustomed poses
To the insistent beat of popular music,
Toning my muscles and
Increasing the capacity of
My heart and lungs
In this aerobics class.

And it sometimes seems odd
To force myself to move
Through the physical world,
Day by day, doing things that require

Physical and mental and
social energies.
For I am not very interested
In the physical world.

But I maintain the machine,
While the soul within
Does its secret work,
Slowly, painstakingly,
At its own level.

— Dian Kendrick

Quilting

"She wrapped herself well in her quilt,
which her mother had made before dying
young. In the middle of one border my
grandmother had sewn a tiny satin trian-
gle, a red heart to protect my mother at
the neck, as if she were her baby yet."
— The Woman Warrior,
Maxine Hong Kingston

The poem being read
is like a mother
busy with every word
her careful hands
working needle and thread
around the folded edge
of your velvet heart,
the final patch
being sewn
into an ancient quilt.

— Mary Ellen Kelly, 1978

The Winter Wind

The winter wind blows with such
power that it creeps inside. The doors
open and a splash of warmth overcomes
all who enter, they look, they meet.
Every vendor is overridden as coins are
shoved down their throats and drop
cherry, twink, and soda pop. Then off to
another class act, feeling with wonder
and boredom merged into one's soul.
"Help," a voice screams with great in-
tegrity. "Let it end." The doors slowly
open toward the end of the day, but in re-
ality it is just beginning.

— Chris Brainard



Reflection

I burn a candle
for you:
you are the arch
of my night
shining
perilous waves
of illumination.
Forward and backward
I steal
a look
of significance
from the
reflection
you mirror.

I see myself tall
in the forest
rising
like vapor
from a cloud
of graveyard
imagination.

I see myself
half-naked
in the rising sun,
arms flowing
with the water of
peace,
walking above life.

— Evon Tefft

Crystal Visions: Clearing Your Energy Field

By Dian Mueller

Finals are upon you, and you've just about had it. Your English teacher is making excessive demands for your term paper, and your psych professor expects you to be a burgeoning Jung. On top of that, the car battery died yesterday, you're all out of cat litter, and the babysitter's come down with a communicable disease. Basically, your head feels like it's going to explode and that calm verve you mustered at the beginning of the semester has forsaken you to the erratic whims of impulsiveness, procrastination, and imminent nervous breakdown.

So what's a woman to do? Something new: make friends with a member of the mineral kingdom. Now what on — or in — the earth does that have to do with calming down and earning your spring credits? You'll be surprised.

When you're nervous, an overabundance of chemicals and electrical impulses are flowing through your body. The more agitated you become, the more active your brain gets in trying to deal with the stress; hence, more bio-electricity is generated. You need a way to direct the scattered energy.

Quartz crystals are known to electronic engineers as important regulators of certain types of energy because of their "piezoelectric effect." In contact with the human body, particularly during meditation, these crystals act as cleansers, balancers, and a sort of battery for storing energy. All of these functions are helpful when you feel burnt or edgy. If these benefits appeal to you, there are some simple ways to begin developing an intimate and restorative relationship with a crystal.

Actually, the most difficult part may be tracking down a crystal dealer in Greenfield. Once you have, take your time selecting the right shard, one that attracts you and that is big enough. The clearest ones aren't necessarily the best, since flaws within the stone can make interesting focal points in and of themselves. My newest inorganic helpmate has within it an inspiring image of a bird in flight which becomes even more beautiful when held up to a sunrise.

Search completed, retreat to a quiet spot and sit with your quartz resting in your hands on your lap. Close your eyes and relax, starting at your feet and working up to the top of your head. With each in-breath, imagine a divine light entering your crown and infusing your body, then release it and all tension out through your feet and tailbone on the out-breath. Continue this exercise until you are invigorated and loose.

Focus now on the crystal. Pour all your anxieties and self-doubts into it; feel these negative energies flowing from your torso, draining out your hands, and into the crystal. When you reach a point of peace, where you no longer have rushes of adrenalin, allow yourself to enjoy the tranquility for a while. Picture the crystal acting as a transformer of dark to light, negative to positive, life-affirming power. This is the power-from-within, yours to use.

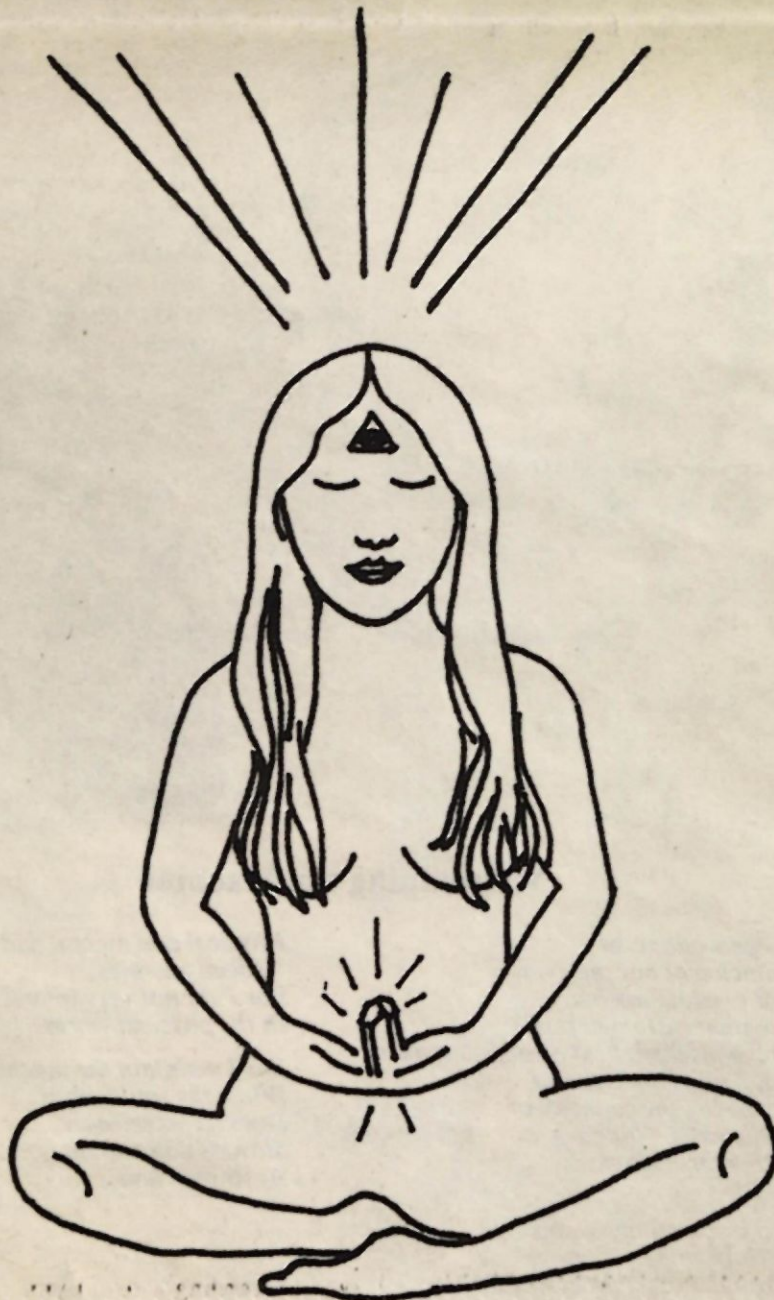
In your psychic vision, let the crystal glow with its stored energy, radiating out to you and the world in waves of white, yellow, green, purple. Accept your regenerated *enthusiasmos* back into yourself, into your heart and mind. Touch the charged crystal to your third eye (in the center of your forehead) to reinforce

your commitment to seeing life as growth-oriented challenge with special gifts waiting for you at the top of every metaphorical hill and mountain climbed. Open your eyes and give yourself permission to **BE**, to appreciate the goddess within. Afterwards, cleanse your crystal in salt water and store it in a piece of silk or on your windowsill.

Of course, if you don't buy into the esoteric aspects of this ritual, rest assured that it still works. It also operates on the level of mundane positive thinking as an effective self-hypnotic tool. Merely by giving yourself the time and consideration whenever you need it, you will experience definite positive shifts in your perspective and outlook.

Feel free to experiment to discover how crystals can best help you. Always use their gifts in affirming ways, and they'll be good to you. For more in-depth crystal explorations, you may enjoy reading *Crystals and Their Use*, by Page Bryant, *Windows of Light: Quartz Crystals and Self-Transformation*, by Randall N. Baer and Vicki V. Baer, as well as other crystal-consciousness books. World Eye Bookshop on Federal Street in Greenfield carries such books in its occult/religious section.

Crystal Visions



— Drawing by Dian Mueller

College Sets New Academic Standards

FROM THE DEAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Hyrum H. Huskey, Jr., Ph.D.
Dean of Student Affairs

The college places prime importance on a student's academic success. Academic standing decisions are based on both a desire to assure academic integrity and a desire to assure student achievement within prescribed standards. To accomplish these goals, the Academic Standards Committee recently approved revised academic standing criteria. This criteria will be utilized in making academic standing decisions at the end of the current Spring Semester.

A number of important changes have been made which I am bringing to your attention now so that you will know what to expect at the end of this semester.

DEAN'S LIST: To be placed on the Dean's List, a student must be full time and have a semester grade point average of 3.50 at the end of the semester. Persons will not be placed on the Dean's List with incomplete courses or with any semester grade lower than a C. The student must also have a cumulative (overall) grade point average of 2.00 or higher. This represents a change in previous policy where students could be named to the list after making up incompletes. Now, all students compete on the same time basis.

NORMAL PROGRESS: This is defined as a status where the student is not on Academic Review, Probation, or Suspension. To maintain normal progress, a student must have both a cumulative grade point average and a semester grade point average of 2.00 (C) or above.

ACADEMIC REVIEW: A student is placed on Academic Review when either the semester or cumulative grade point average is under 2.00. If both are under 2.00, the student would normally be placed on probation, but would be placed on Academic Review if they had never yet been in that status. While in Academic Review status, a student is expected to carry a reduced academic course load and/or reduced co-curricular activities. A diagnostic interview in the Learning Center is also required. Students remain eligible for financial aid in this status unless an insufficient number of courses have been completed to qualify for aid by virtue of the federal aid regulations themselves. This academic status is designed to provide a "warning" to students that their academic progress is falling into jeopardy.

ACADEMIC PROBATION: A student is placed on Academic Probation when both the overall grade point average and the semester grade point average are below 2.00 and the student has already been in Academic Review status for one semester or more. The student will not be eligible for financial aid and will also be required to comply with the other actions specified above for Academic Review students.

ACADEMIC SUSPENSION: When a student has been on probation and the next semester has both an overall and semester grade point average under 2.00, and the cumulative grade point average is lower than the previous semester, the student will be suspended and precluded from enrollment for one full Fall or Spring Semester. If the student has not previously been on probation, he/she will be placed on probation rather than suspended. If a student meets the same grade point conditions and has previously been suspended in the past, he/she will be dismissed from the college and precluded from future enrollment.

A NEW START POLICY has also been adopted. Under this policy, a student who has not attended the college for more than two academic years and was on probation, suspension, or dismissal status at time of discontinuance may be readmitted in Academic Review status for the first semester upon his/her return. Thereafter, normal academic progress standards will apply. This readmission is at the discretion of the Dean of Student Affairs.

These new procedures require early attention to course-work and are supplemented by many college resources provided for student assistance all along the way. We recognize that unusual circumstances may require a review in individual instances, but students are expected to be aware of these standards and take early self-help actions to remain in a normal progress status — or better yet, on the Dean's List most semesters!

Women Give Award to GCC

State Representative Carmen Buell (Democrat, Greenfield) and the staff, faculty and students of Greenfield Community College have been given awards by the Displaced Homemaker Program in thanks for their support in helping to continue the program at GCC.

Seven women who have participated in the program also received awards, which were given at a reception at the college in March.

The Displaced Homemaker Program is a state-funded program designed to aid women who, through divorce or widowhood, must cope with the transition of becoming economically independent. The program provides job and education counseling and moral support for the women, many of whom have recently ended long marriages and have dependent children.

Last August, program coordinator Betsy Averill learned that, because of a lack of state funding, the program was to be closed in September. Averill and program participants mounted a successful letter-writing and lobbying campaign to keep the office open at GCC. Petitions bearing nearly 500 signatures were sent to Governor Michael S. Dukakis, and Buell and State Senator John Olver (Democrat, Amherst) lobbied in the legislature.

Greenfield Community College provided funding for Averill's salary for 15 hours a week, allowing Averill to continue her work until other state funding was awarded.

The seven program participants who received awards at the March reception were Mary Gexler, Marybell Kean, Catharine Kim, Alyce Lacoy, Diane Landis, and Mary Wilson of Greenfield, and Janie Howard of Turners Falls.

GCC to Hold Semi-Formal Dinner Dance May 15

By Michael Looman

"Not jeans, not tux, but in between," said Merryl Sackin, director of Student Activities at Greenfield Community College. What was she talking about? GCC's semi-formal dinner dance, scheduled for Friday, May 15, in the college cafeteria.

Although Sackin said "we have never turned anyone away because they came in sneakers and jeans," the annual dinner dance at GCC is an evening of good food, good music — and good clothes.

The 150 to 200 people who are expected to attend this year's dinner dance, which is open to the community, can look forward to an evening well worth the \$5 admission fee, Sackin said.

Asked if there is a theme for the dance, she said, "We don't have a theme, because some felt that would be too high-schoolish."

The evening will start with dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, "which you won't recognize after we get done decorating it," according to Sackin. "The place will be decorated to look much different from the everyday scene we are used to."

Those attending may choose as an entree either roast beef or baked scrod with lemon butter sauce. They will be dancing to the music of Montage, a five-member band from Boston which will play a variety of music, including soft rock and roll and tunes from the top forty. The four-man, one-woman group was chosen by the Student Activities dance committee on the basis of tapes of the band performing.

"They sound like they will be great," Sackin said, adding, "One of the guys in the group looks like Bruce Willis," co-star of "Moonlighting," the popular TV show on ABC Tuesday nights.

When asked if the annual dinner dance

is usually well-attended, Sackin replied, "Last year we sold all our tickets."

This year's tickets, which cannot be purchased at the door, are now on sale in the Student Activities office. Tickets must be purchased by May 8, so that the caterer can plan on how many to prepare for. Choice of dinner entree must be made when the tickets are purchased.

The actual cost of each dinner will be approximately \$10, with the admission price covering only half that. The rest of the cost will be subsidized by the student fees paid by students every semester.

"People are always asking what the Student Activities fees go for," Sackin said. "Well, here is one example, plus around \$2000 more to cover the cost of the band."

Grace Food Service, the outside food concern that has the contract for the cafeteria services at GCC, will be catering the dinner dance.

"Last year we sold out early, so I would suggest that if anyone is interested in going to the dinner dance, they buy their tickets now. We can only admit 200," Sackin said, adding, "No children. This evening is for adults, only."

International Students Club

By Jane Bensch

Greenfield Community College's International Students Club took part in the International Student Fair at the University of Massachusetts in early April. The students had the opportunity to meet others from their respective countries who are now studying in the Pioneer Valley.

Edgar Sabogal presented his slide show with accompanying music of Colombia at the fair and Lani Segal performed native dances of her island of Ponape in Micronesia in the fair's talent show.

The club was scheduled to make its annual trip to Boston on April 23. The members planned to visit the State House and meet our local representative to the legislature, Carmen Buell, wife of GCC's Dr. Larry Buell. The club also planned to visit Quincy Market.

Math Center Offers Free Help to Students

The Math Center, which is now in its third semester at Greenfield Community College, offers tutoring free of charge to any student having difficulty with a math course or to students who just want to brush up in a specific area. Math Center tutors are available by appointment.

The GCC math faculty also offers free drop-in homework sessions in the Math Center, which is located in the Learning Center, on the fourth floor. One of the math faculty is available to answer questions Mondays-Wednesdays, 12:15-1:00 pm, and Thursdays, 12:15-2:00 pm.

The Math Center has a variety of resources to help students understand math concepts. There are computer programs for basic mathematics, algebra, trigonometry, calculus, graphing and geometry; the programs offer different ways to learn math and practice new math skills.

The Math Center also has other materials which explain math concepts visually. According to Lynn Benander, coordinator of the center, "For many

Caribbean Player at GCC

By Jane Bensch

A vital member of the Greenfield Community College soccer and basketball teams this year has been Chris St. Juste of St. Lucia, which is part of the Windward Islands in the eastern Caribbean. Chris, who represented his country abroad four times in basketball tournaments, was chosen in 1984 for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States All-Star Team.

Through the sponsorship of a Peace Corps volunteer named John Birch, Chris first came to the United States to attend a summer basketball camp. He came to this country again last fall to study at GCC through the referral of the basketball coach at North Adams State, a friend of both John Birch and of GCC's athletics director, John Palmer.

Chris, who thinks the snow in this part of the world is wonderful but doesn't like the cold weather that accompanies it, comes from a family of 14, half of whom moved away from St. Lucia before he did. Just turned 24, Chris originally left school at the age of 15 and is now picking up where he left off. His favorite subject is math and he would like to receive a degree in accounting. In his spare time, he enjoys music and traveling.

St. Lucia, originally a British colony, gained its independence in 1979. The island is a free-trade zone and an important oil shipment terminal.

Housing Problems?

Are you having problems with your landlord, mortgage lender, apartment?

The Housing Services Program (HSP) can help you. The program offers mediation of tenant/landlord disputes, information about tenant rights and responsibilities, budget counseling, Public Housing Assistance counseling, and pre-home-purchasing counseling, among other free services.

There is no income limit on eligibility for these services. For more information, contact HSP at Franklin Community Action Corporation, 39 Federal Street, Greenfield, MA 01301; 413-773-3574 or 1-800-322-0270.

Fall Semester, 1987

Monday-Tuesday, June 15-16

Tuesday-Wednesday, September 1-2

Thursday, September 3

Friday, September 4

Tuesday, September 8

Tuesday, September 15

Monday, October 12

Tuesday, October 13

Tuesday, October 27

Tuesday, November 10

Wednesday, November 11

Monday-Friday, November 16-20

Thursday-Friday, November 26-27

Tuesday, December 15

Friday, December 18

Saturday, December 19

Monday-Thursday, December 21-24

Thursday, December 24

New Student Registration

Final Registration

Staff Development Day

Student Orientation

CLASSES BEGIN

Last Day to Add Classes

COLUMBUS DAY; NO CLASSES

Last Day to Withdraw/No Record

Deficiency Notices Due

Last Day to Withdraw/"W"

VETERANS' DAY; NO CLASSES

Spring Registration for Returning Students

THANKSGIVING RECESS; NO CLASSES

Monday Schedule

Classes End

Designated Make-Up Day (If Necessary)

FINAL EXAMS

SEMESTER ENDS; Final Grades Due in Registrar's Office

GCC's Free Condoms Upset Local Ministers

By Michael Looman

Area ministers have criticized Greenfield Community College for handing out free condoms during the "Love Carefully" Health Awareness Day presented on campus by GCC's Health Services on Valentine's Day.

The condoms were distributed in order to draw attention to the growing problem of sexually transmitted diseases, many of which can be prevented by the use of a prophylactic. Literature on sexual diseases was also distributed, and there was a lecture on AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome), but the media concentrated on the condoms. The media attention led some local ministers to express their concern about how the college handled the whole issue of sexual freedom.

AIDS is a deadly disease which is spreading rapidly. According to the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop, there are three million cases of AIDS in the country at this time, a number that will double by 1990. There is strong evidence that AIDS can be transmitted by the exchange of body fluids during sex.

Condoms are considered 90 percent effective in preventing the exchange of body fluids during sex and should be used during any sexual contact between heterosexuals or male homosexuals who do not know their partner's sexual history. The condom must be put on before any genital contact is made to keep the failure rate at 10 percent or lower.

Koop says that the HTLV III virus (the "AIDS virus") can be dormant in the body's immune system for up to 10 years. He maintains that condoms should be advertised on television in much the same way as sanitary napkins and other personal hygiene products are.

According to Nancy Buchanan, R.N., director of GCC's Health Services, and the person responsible for Love Carefully Day, the distribution of free condoms at the college on Valentine's Day was intended to help prevent sexual diseases,

including AIDS. Some local ministers did not see it that way.

The Reverend Larry Armbrust, pastor of the Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Greenfield, made a public statement in the *Greenfield Recorder* criticizing the free condoms at GCC and made the condoms the focus of one of his Sunday morning shows on WHAI radio.

"The recent incident at GCC, with the distribution of contraceptives the major issue of attention, is only the tip of the iceberg," Armbrust told his radio audience. "I see such a blatant disregard for morality as one more sign that we are living in the last days."

While Armbrust agrees that it is important for GCC "to express an interest in the growing problem of AIDS and other social diseases," he doesn't feel the college's action was appropriate. When interviewed in his church office, the minister said the media had gotten "a lot of mileage out of this condom thing at GCC. It certainly put Greenfield on the map."

Asked whether he felt AIDS is God's punishment for homosexual activities, Armbrust answered, "The Bible is very clear on God's judgment. AIDS very well could be a consequence to man's sin."

Another minister who agreed to be interviewed, the Reverend Charles Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, stated he believed AIDS to be "God's answer to homosexuality." He said, "If I could find a bumper sticker that read, 'AIDS is the cure to homosexuality,' I would put it on my car."

Allen said the newspapers and the rest of the media are "very liberal, but neutral, letting the reader make his own decision on the issue ... Taking a stand does not sell their newspapers."

Neither Armbrust nor Allen shares the view of the Reverend Lee Eiss, pastor of the Faith Baptist Church in Greenfield, who believes "All AIDS victims should be colonized, much the same as the government colonized T.B. victims back in

the thirties ... AIDS is God's judgment on sinful man. If I had an AIDS victim in my church, he would be asked to leave and not come back." Eiss said he does not understand why GCC distributed the free condoms.

A statement entitled "Citizens' Protest to Greenfield Community College," addressed to college officials and signed only "Concerned Citizens of Franklin County," stated that "Condoms are already available in the college restrooms at 25 cents apiece for anyone who wants them." The letter also stated, "we ... urge GCC to cease the distribution of taxpayer-funded birth control devices immediately, concentrating its efforts instead on responsible higher education."

GCC President Theodore Provo has said that no public funds were used to buy the condoms, but that volunteers donated the money.

According to GCC Health Services Director Buchanan, Love Carefully Day was just one in a series of health awareness events at the college.

"In the fall we had a day when alcohol abuse was the topic, in March we alerted the college community to environmental issues in our Environmental Awareness Day, and in April we had a Cancer Awareness Day," Buchanan said. "There will be a day on the subject of drug and alcohol awareness in May."

President Provo supported the idea of Love Carefully Day as part of the college's effort to educate the GCC community on various health issues.

"College is the place for open dialog, an open forum where both sides can get up and express themselves," Provo said. He added that, if he had known Love Carefully Day would be such a media event, he "would have given the other side space and time to express their views."

GCC Speakers In Top Third

Four Greenfield Community College students placed in the top third of their respective categories in the Great Eastern Community College Forensic Festival held at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, NY, early in April.

Winning second places were Brian McCullough, extemporaneous speaking; Jacqueline Metelica, interpretation of the King James Bible; and Tami Nelson, informative speaking. Metelica also took a third place for extemporaneous speaking and Pamela McKinnon won third place for humorous speaking.

Contestants in the tournament included students from nine community colleges in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Other members of the GCC team were Stacey Lapanne, Mary Lappie, Karen Reynolds and Robert Sicurello. The team was coached by Federico Agnir, associate professor of speech at GCC.

'Love Carefully Day' Was Media Circus

By Theodore Provo
President, Greenfield Community College

We had a media circus on campus for "Love Carefully Day." Television crews were all over the building, talking to health officials, administrators, faculty and students. Channels 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 22, 40 and 56, as well as radio stations, newspapers, the Associated Press, and United Press International were here to film, record and write about the event.

We were flattered that all these media outlets were interested in our college event; however, we are not naive enough to believe that they were here to discuss our health program. They had been attracted by an Associated Press wire service story that indicated that the college would be handing out condoms to each student. The real message was being masked by the availability of the condoms. The real story could be heard at the AIDS lecture in which the message of the growth of the AIDS virus, and its

deadly effects on those who are afflicted, was illustrated to the students.

I salute all those on campus who tried to get that real message to the news media, the general public, and especially to our students. There are times when higher education has to "bite the bullet" and face the critical issues, especially those crisis issues concerning the general health of everyone. We could have looked the other way, but we chose not to because to have looked the other way would have defeated our mission to educate our students.

I also want to thank the students for their maturity and their understanding of what we are trying to do. I hope we have learned AIDS is an enemy, and we need to know and understand all we can about the virus so we might be better informed in dealing with the disease and those people who are afflicted.



**There's
more than
one way to get
a higher education.**

Before you earn your degree, you could earn the money to pay for it. By joining the Army Guard today.

Work with us two days a month and two weeks a year, and get a handsome paycheck. A challenging future. And the kind of experience that makes your resumé great reading material.

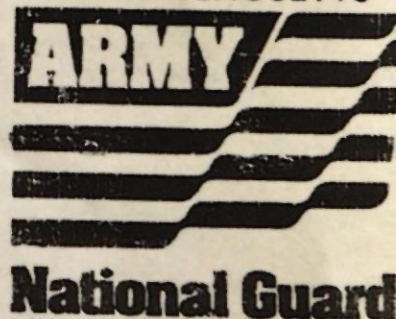
100%

FREE TUITION

To any Massachusetts

Funded College or University

MASSACHUSETTS



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,

CALL

1-800-322-1338

In Greenfield Call 1-413-773-9880

Auditions for Musical Set for May at GCC

The Creative Curtain will hold auditions for "It's All in Your Head," an original musical play by Catherine King-Devine, on Wednesday, May 27, and Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m., in Room S01 at Greenfield Community College.

The protagonist of the play, which is scheduled for production on July 23, 24, 25, 30, and 31, and August 1 at GCC, is Abbie Douglas, a young man of 18, who refuses to leave his bedroom. When social worker Emily Ashby is called in to help, she discovers that Abbie, a frus-

trated musician, believes he has a rock band living in his bedroom wall. Abbie's psyche is completely involved with the members of the imaginary band, with whom he talks and sings. With the help of his family and friends, Emily attempts to bring the young man back to reality.

The play's musical score, which King-Devine describes as "modern, yet accessible to all age groups," is being written by Chris Devine, who is the show's musical director. Devine is a vocal instructor for the Greenfield Public Schools.

"It's All in Your Head" is being funded in part by a grant from the Greenfield Arts Funding Commission and is being produced in cooperation with Greenfield Community College.

Roles in the musical are available for seven males and six females, from the ages of 14 to 60. There are also two choruses in the show, one composed of teens, the other of "yuppies." Strong singing voices are desirable, though not necessary, for all roles.

People are also needed for production crew positions such as stage manager, costume master/mistress, and properties manager.

King-Devine, a student of GCC and a counselor for Franklin County Dial-Self, not only wrote the show, but is its director and producer. She is earning six credits in a directed study with the project, which H. James Godwin is overseeing.

The Creative Curtain, a non-profit organization, was established by King-Devine in 1983 as "a high-energy theatre company with a strong accent on teens and young people." The company's first production was "Something to Say" in 1983, an original musical with music and lyrics by Chris Devine, performed at GCC. The company also presented performances in Montague of "The Prince Who Wouldn't Talk" in 1984, and of "A Talent Showcase" in 1986.

Those with questions about the show may call King-Devine at 863-8246.

The Little Cobbler

Where Your Shoes
Receive
T.L.C.



Donat J. Fournier, Jr.

HEELS WHILE
YOU WAIT
(usually 5 minutes)

Open Mon. thru Fri.
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00
31 Miles St. - Greenfield, Ma.
Telephone 773-3073

BOOKS

AT G.C.C.
SHOP YOUR BOOKSTORE



Paperbacks, Greeting Cards, Clothing, Gift Items, Supplies and Much More

OPEN MON.-FRI. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

We Have Gift Certificates Too!

'Light of Day': Movie Review

By Tim Grant

"Light of Day" (PG-13), despite its fine music and acting, has one major problem: its story.

Michael J. Fox and Joan Jett, in her movie debut, are Joe and Patti Rasnick, siblings who play in a struggling band called the Barbusters. What's odd about this film is that the music is peripheral to what really lies at the core of its story: a mother-daughter discordance in dire need of mending. Jett despises her fundamentalist mom, and wants nothing to do with her or religion. Having an illegitimate child and playing rock music is her way of rebelling.

The movie is disappointing in that it continually shifts from energetic concert numbers to family squabbles. Music, then fights and confrontations, then more music, and the pattern is consistent throughout most of the film. This becomes tiresome and somewhat dull after

a while. "Light Of Day" also lacked balance. It's been compared to "Terms Of Endearment," but at least "Terms" balanced its drama with some light comedy. The gloom in "Day" never has a chance to lift.

Joan Jett is the best part of the film. Her performance, especially in the movie's emotional climax, is striking and professional. And Michael J. Fox fares well in his first dramatic role, though he surprisingly is not the central character. Also, Gena Rowlands is very good as the moralistic mom. Now if this movie had concentrated more on the music and the band, then maybe it would've been more fun. It could've been an improved "Footloose." The story has a lot of substance, but unfortunately it never transcends its consistent somberness. So if you want to see an upbeat film and leave the theater feeling good, don't see "Light Of Day."

Success is achieved one step at a time.

Congratulations, you have your Associates Degree...
now what? Gain the hands-on experience that will make you career ready
while earning your Bachelors Degree.

COMPUTERS

ENGINEERING
TECHNOLOGY

MANAGEMENT
OF TECHNOLOGY



FINANCIAL AID

91.5% JOB
PLACEMENT

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

CALL NOW 1-800-223-2007

WESTBOROUGH
Junction of Rts. 9 & 495

WORCESTER
768 Main Street

SUCCESS

EMPLOYMENT

BACHELORS DEGREE

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

ASSOCIATES DEGREE

Snow White's Stepmother: A Feminist Fairytale

By Dian Kendrick

Once upon a time there was a queen — because we are all queens. She was married to a king — of course — and her daughter was — naturally — a princess.

The queen, who was used to being called Mrs. White, although her birth name was Hestia Hearth, had been married for quite a while. Her daughter, Snow, was 18 and had just run away from home.

The queen consulted her magic mirror about Snow, since the king was no help in such matters. The queen was used to talking to her mirror; it was the only one who listened to her and saw her as she was. Sometimes the mirror helped her when all else failed.

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall," the queen said. "Snow has run away again. You know we had a quarrel; that's nothing new. She thinks she has to do too much around the house, she thinks I don't understand her, she even thinks I'm not her real mother because I'm not good enough for her. But this time it's even worse; she left a note saying I'm jealous of her because she's young and pretty and I'm getting old and losing my looks. She says she doesn't know what would happen to her if she stayed here and she has to get away from me. So where is she, mirror? I need to know that she's all right."

"Snow White is fine," the mirror said. "She's been taken in by some middle-aged men who've never learned how to take care of themselves properly. She's doing more for them than she ever did here for you, but it's okay because they make her feel like a princess. They tell her how pretty she is and how important she is to them, and they're very sympathetic when she tells them how you've misunderstood and abused her. She doesn't mind scrubbing their floors and cooking their meals, because after all they're men and can't do that kind of thing for themselves, so it makes her feel important. She'll be all right there for now."

The queen found this a little hard to take, all things considered. It had been a long time since the king had made her feel important because of the things she did for him. Snow, of course, had never made her feel important, although the queen had loved her and tried to make

her happy. And now Snow was running around badmouthing her to strangers. And, on top of all this, the queen was getting older and wasn't as pretty as she once had been. It was all rather depressing.

"Look, mirror, I've had it," the queen said. "I've spent my whole life trying to please other people — my mother, my husband, my daughter. I've tried to give my family a good home and I've tried to keep myself up so that I would be attractive to the king. It hasn't worked. I'm 45 years old and I don't have anything for myself except a husband who doesn't know who I am and doesn't care as long as I do my job and don't bother him with my problems. My daughter's run off and God knows how long it'll be until we get things worked out between us; right now, she doesn't know who I am, either. It's gotten to the point where I'm not sure who I am myself, except someone who takes care of other people. I don't have a life of my own and I'm tired of it."

The mirror looked back at her and spoke.

"It looks as if that's something you're going to have to take care of yourself," it said. "What are you going to do?"

Even though the queen was used to taking care of other people, it was hard to imagine taking care of herself and making decisions for herself alone. The thought frightened her — what if it turned out that she didn't have a self worth taking care of? Still, she was tired of things the way they were and she didn't see that there was much chance of her life improving unless she took matters into her own hands.

"Look," said the mirror. "You've spent a long time putting other people first, because you thought that was your job. You've done all you can for Snow; it's up to her now what she makes of her life. You've put a lot into the king, too, and it seems to me it's time for him to do his own work instead of relying on you to smooth the path for him. Maybe it's time for you to move on."

The queen felt as if the ground had been pulled from under her feet. This was the life she was used to; she didn't know any other. It was going to take a lot of courage to step into the unknown, to leap into the void and find her bearings

in a new world, a new life. On the other hand, the mirror had always known what it was talking about before. And life here on the old ground was more — or, rather, less — than she could continue to face day after day, with nothing for herself.

She sighed. "All right, mirror, you have a point. If I stay here and keep on being miserable, I have no one to blame but myself. I've got to try to live a different way, try to find something for myself; no one else is going to do it for me. I am my own responsibility, and I'm going to start taking that seriously. I'll organize myself and start packing — I'm not going to take much. I want to travel light, with only those things that are really mine."

"I'm yours," said the mirror. "You wouldn't go anywhere without me, would you?"

"Of course not," said the queen. "You've been mine from the beginning and will be to the end. This whole thing is going to be damned hard, but I know I can rely on you. You're going with me."

And so the queen packed a few things that were hers, the most important being the magic mirror, and walked out of her house and closed the door behind her. She didn't know where she was going or what she would do, but she knew that she had made her decision and there was no turning back.

The first half of her life was over. The second half lay ahead, uncharted territory full of who knew what terrors and wonders. She took a few tentative steps, then lifted her chin resolutely, shifted her grip on the mirror so that she held it more firmly, and marched ahead, her eyes on the horizon.

We must each write our own ending to this story, just as we must all make our own journey. We wish the queen Godspeed.



Spring Weekend Set for May 15-16

By Sharon Chevette

It's the weekend before finals at Greenfield Community College, May 15 and 16. Do you plan to stay home and study? Relax! This is the time for dances, comedy shows, barbecues, and fun. It's Spring Weekend!

The festivities begin on Friday, May 15, with the antics of Abrams and Anderson. The comedy/improvisation duo will perform a free show in the GCC cafeteria from noon until 12:45 p.m.

That evening students will dress in their Sunday best to attend the semi-formal dinner dance. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the college cafeteria. At 8:00 p.m. the dance begins with music by Montage. The band will play until 11 p.m. Free pictures will be taken during the evening.

On Saturday, The Sighs will start the day's events with an outdoor rock concert lasting from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. From 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., a barbecue consisting of hot dogs and hamburgers will be served.

Writing the Fairytale

I thought it would be fun to rewrite "Snow White" from the perspective of the stepmother, the "wicked queen." What if she wasn't such a bad sort, just a routinely maligned mother? What if she was tired of Snow White's dramatics and bizarre behavior (running off to live with seven dwarfs *could* be construed as odd) and also wasn't getting much out of her relationship with the king? (We note that the relationship doesn't figure very largely in the original fairytale, any more than Cinderella's father does in "The Glass Slipper.") These men are conspicuous by their emotional absence, which seems standard in life as well as in myth.)

Instead of considering the queen only in relation to the "heroine" of the original tale, Snow White, I wanted to examine what life might really have been like for this supposedly "wicked" woman. I wanted to pretend I was her, or she was me, and make her a modern-day, middle-aged woman with problems that face many of us at this time of life.

I chose "Snow White" as the fairytale I revised not only because of the queen but because of the magic mirror. For me, the mirror became the queen's Inner Self, that core of herself which knew who she was and what she needed, the only thing that did know these things and the only thing upon which she could rely.

The changes I had to make in the original story are large and far-reaching and, I think, obvious, since I chose a very well-known tale. It was fun to do, and fairly easy in some ways, but I found myself struggling with my own emotions as I wrote, and this was rather painful. The queen's story, as told in my tale, is not precisely mine, but it comes close in some ways. It is not easy to consider all that went into my own decision to leave "home" and to put some small part of that into the words in this tale. Also, I am still in the early stages of my own journey through the second half of my life, and cannot write the end.



IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME: In a photo taken early last summer, two Greenfield women canoe on the Connecticut River at Barton Cove in Gill. Canoes and rowboats may be rented at the cove, which is described by the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center as "a unique and mystical place ... an idyllic spot for overnight tent camping, day hiking, picnicking, canoeing, and fishing." The campground at the cove will be open this year from Friday, May 22, until Sunday, September 20.